

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A ticket sales method for use in a network system wherein at least a terminal and a sales center are coupled by a network communication comprising the steps of:

sending purchase order of a ticket to be purchased by a user

5 from said terminal to said sales center;

upon receipt of the purchase order by said sales center sending ticket information to said terminal;

generating a card, said card having the ticket information recorded thereon by recording means for recording ticket information on
10 a card, said recording means being connected to said user terminal; and

Getting said card having the ticket information recorded thereon read by reading means of a ticket gate terminal, said ticket gate terminal being installed at a ticket utilization place.

2. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step of purchase ordering of the ticket comprises the steps of:

sending ticket product information from said sales center to said terminal via a network;

5 selecting from the ticket product information, displayed on said terminal, a ticket that the user is going to purchase; and

sending the purchase order of the ticket selected on said terminal to said sales center via said network.

3. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 1, wherein on one card is being recorded information on a plurality of tickets purchased by the user from said sales center.

4. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

displaying ticket information read from said card by said reading means on a display unit at said ticket gate terminal; and

5 allowing the user to select ticket information to be used from the displayed ticket information.

5. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 4, further comprising the step of:

sending the ticket information selected at said ticket gate terminal from said ticket gate terminal to said sales center;

5 upon receipt of the ticket information by said sales center comparing the ticket information with corresponding information stored in said sales center to check if the ticket information is valid; and

controlling an admission of the user in said ticket gate terminal based on a checking result at said sales center.

6. A ticket sales method comprising the steps of:

sending a ticket purchase order from a user terminal to a sales center connected via a network when a user is to purchase a ticket;

upon receipt of the ticket purchase order by said sales center

5 checking if there is a problem with a payment of a ticket charge to send ticket information and buyer identification information to the user terminal if there is no problem;

recording the ticket information and the buyer identification information on the user terminal on a card comprising a recording

10 medium, based on the information sent from said sales center to said

user terminal by recording means for recording information on a recording medium;

making card reading means of a ticket gate terminal read the card when the user carrying the card on which the ticket information and the buyer identification information are recorded goes to a ticket usage place;

comparing ticket information corresponding to the ticket to be used by the user and the buyer identification information, both of which are included in the information on the card read by said ticket gate terminal, with the ticket information and the buyer identification information stored in said sales center; and

controlling an admission of the user based on the comparison result.

7. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 6, further comprising the step of making said card reading means read the ticket information recorded on the card and printing out the ticket information by a printer connected to said ticket gate terminal to create a ticket.

8. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 6, wherein the card on which the ticket information and the buyer identification information are recorded is generated by writing the ticket information and the buyer identification information on an IC card with an IC card writer

5 connected to said user terminal.

9. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 6, wherein the buyer identification information includes a buyer's name, purchase order contents, and order date/time information,

wherein said sales center stores the ticket information and the
 5 buyer identification information, sent from said user terminal when the
 user purchases the ticket, into a database at said sales terminal, and

wherein, when the user uses the ticket, among the information
 read by said ticket gate terminal from the card, the ticket information
 and the buyer identification information, which are to be used by the
 10 user, are compared with the ticket information and the buyer
 identification information stored in the database at said sales center to
 prevent an illegal use of the card.

10. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 6, wherein, when the
 user orders a ticket using said user terminal, the user informs said sales
 center of credit card information for use in charge payment.

11. A ticket sales method, comprising the steps of:

ordering a ticket from a user terminal to a sales center
 connected to said user terminal via a network, said ticket being
 purchased by a user;

5 upon receipt of the ticket order by said sales center, sending
 ticket information and buyer identification information to said user
 terminal;

recording the ticket information and the buyer identification
 information, sent to said user terminal, onto an IC card using an IC card
 10 reader connected to said user terminal; and

having the IC card read by an IC card reader of a ticket gate
 terminal to grant or reject an admission of the user when the user have
 said IC card and goes to a ticket window to use the ticket.

12. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 11, wherein said step of ordering the ticket comprises the steps of:

5 sending ticket product information from said sales center to said user terminal via said network when the user orders a ticket from said terminal;

selecting from the ticket product information, which is displayed on a display unit of said terminal, a ticket the user is going to purchase; and

10 sending a purchase order of the ticket selected on said terminal to said sales center over said network.

13. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 11, further comprising the step of:

5 reading the ticket information and the buyer identification information, which are recorded on the IC card, by an IC card reader connected to said user terminal and displaying the information on a display unit of said user terminal to allow the user to confirm the displayed information.

14. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

displaying the ticket information, read from the IC card by the IC card reader, on a display unit at said ticket gate terminal;

5 allowing the user to select from a screen of the display unit of said ticket gate terminal the ticket information to be used; and

sending the selected ticket information and buyer identification information corresponding to the selected ticket

information to said sales center via said network for comparing with the
 10 information stored in a database at said sales center.

15. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 11, further comprising
 the step of:

printing out the ticket information being recorded on said IC
 card, with a printer connected to said ticket gate terminal to issue a
 5 ticket.

16. A ticket sales method comprising the steps of:

(a) sending purchase order information and credit card
 information from a user terminal by a user (hereinafter called a buyer)
 who orders a ticket to a sales center via a network, said purchase order
 5 information being product information on a ticket to be purchased, said
 credit card information being used for transferring a charge;

(b) said sales center sending credit instruction information to a
 charge-transfer terminal connected to said sales center, based on the
 credit card information, on receiving from said user terminal the
 10 purchase order information and the credit card information used for
 transferring the charge;

(c) said charge-transfer terminal transferring the charge based
 on the credit instruction information to send charge transferability
 information to said sales center, said charge transferability information
 15 indicating whether the charge may be transferred;

(d) said sales center generating buyer identification
 information for identifying a buyer, order contents, and an order
 date/time, based on the purchase order information, if the charge

transferability information from said charge-transfer terminal indicates
20 that the charge may be transferred, wherein said sales center sends the
buyer identification information generated as well as the ticket
information to said user terminal, and stores the ticket information and
the buyer identification information into a database at said sales center;

(e) said sales center generating ticket unavailability
25 information to send the information to said user terminal if the charge
transferability information sent from said charge-transfer terminal
indicates that the charge cannot be transferred or in case the ticket is
out of stock and cannot be sold;

(f) said user terminal upon receipt of the ticket information and
30 the buyer identification information from said sales center to write the
ticket information and the buyer identification information on an IC card
with an IC card writer connected to the user terminal; and

(g) said user terminal displaying information, indicating that
the user-ordered ticket could not be purchased, on a display on said user
35 terminal if the ticket unavailability information was received from said
sales center.

17. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 16, further comprising
the steps, for using the ticket purchased by the buyer, of:

(h) making an IC card reader read the IC card on which the
ticket information and the buyer identification information are written,
5 said IC card reader being connected to a ticket gate terminal installed in
a predetermined place at a ticket gate or an admission entrance;

(i) said ticket gate terminal reading the ticket information and

the buyer identification information from the IC card via the IC card reader to display the ticket information on a display unit of said ticket gate terminal, said ticket gate terminal sending selected ticket information, as well as buyer identification information corresponding to the selected ticket information, to said sales center over the network;

(j) upon receipt of the ticket information and the buyer identification information from said ticket gate terminal by said sales center, comparing the ticket information and the buyer identification information received with ticket information and buyer identification information stored in the database at said sales center to send a comparison result to said ticket gate terminal; and

(k) said ticket gate terminal in receipt of the comparison result sent from said sales center controlling admission such that the user is granted an admission if the comparison result is true and the user is rejected if the comparison result is false.

18. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 16, further comprising the steps, for using the ticket purchased by the buyer, of:

(l) making an IC card reader read the IC card on which the ticket information and the buyer identification information are written, said IC card reader being connected to a ticket gate terminal installed in a predetermined place at a ticket gate or an admission entrance;

(m) said ticket gate terminal, after reading the ticket information and the buyer identification information from the IC card via the IC card reader, displaying the ticket information on a display unit of said ticket gate terminal to send selected ticket information, as

well as buyer identification information corresponding to the selected ticket information, to said sales center over the network;

(n) said sales center in receipt of the ticket information and the buyer identification information sent from said ticket gate terminal,
 15 comparing the received ticket information and the buyer identification information with ticket information and buyer identification information stored in the database at said sales center to send a comparison result to said ticket gate terminal; and

(o) said ticket gate terminal in receipt of the comparison result
 20 sent from said sales center, printing out ticket information on a printer connected to said ticket gate terminal to issue a ticket if the comparison result is true, said ticket gate terminal informing the user that the ticket cannot be issued if the comparison result is false.

19. The ticket sales method as defined in claim 16, wherein said sales center in receipt of the purchase sends not only the ticket information and the buyer identification information but also additional information associated with the ticket to said terminal, said terminal recording the
 5 additional information on the IC card.

20. A ticket sales system comprising a user terminal, a sales center connected to said user terminal over a network, and a ticket gate terminal connected to said sales center over a network,

wherein said user terminal comprises means for sending ticket
 5 purchase information on a ticket a user is going to purchase to said sales center,

wherein said sales center comprises:

means for receiving the ticket purchase information;

means for electronically issuing a ticket; and

10 means for sending ticket information on the issued ticket to
said user terminal,

wherein said user terminal further comprises means for
recording the ticket information on a card based on the ticket
information sent from said sales center, and

15 wherein when the user uses the ticket, the ticket information on
the card is read by card reading means of said ticket gate terminal, the
ticket information that has been read compared by said sales center with
ticket information stored in said sales center sending comparison result
to said ticket gate terminal to control an admission of the user based on
20 said comparison result.

21. A ticket sales system comprising a user terminal, a sales center
connected to said user terminal over a network, and a charge-transfer
terminal connected to said sales center over a network,

wherein said user terminal comprises means for sending
5 purchase order information and credit card information to said sales
center, said purchase order information being entered by a user
(hereinafter called a buyer) who orders a ticket and being product
information on the ticket the user wants to purchase, said credit card
information being entered by the user for use of transferring a charge,
10 wherein said sales center comprises:

means for receiving from said user terminal the purchase order
information and the credit card information used for transferring the

charge;

means for generating credit instruction information, based on
15 the credit card information to send said credit instruction information to
a charge-transfer terminal;

means for generating buyer identification information, based
on the purchase order information to send the generated information, as
well as ticket information on the purchased ticket, to said user terminal
20 if charge transferability information sent from said charge-transfer
terminal indicates that the charge may be transferred, said buyer
identification information identifying a buyer, order contents, and an
order date/time;

means for storing the ticket information and the buyer
25 identification information in a database; and

means for generating unavailability information to send the
information to said user terminal if the charge transferability
information sent from said charge-transfer terminal indicates that the
charge cannot be transferred,

30 wherein said charge-transfer terminal comprises:

means for transferring a charge based on a credit instruction
information; and

means for sending charge transferability information to said
sales center, said transferability information indicating whether the
35 charge may be transferred, and

wherein said user terminal further comprises:

means for receiving the buyer identification information and

the ticket information from said sales center;

means for writing the ticket information on an IC card with an
40 IC card writer connected to said user terminal; and

means for displaying information, indicating that the ordered
ticket could not be purchased, on said user terminal if the unavailability
information is received from said sales center.

22. The ticket sales system as defined in claim 21 wherein, at said user
terminal, the ticket product information sent from said sales center over
the network is displayed on a display unit of said user terminal and
wherein, from the displayed ticket product information, the user selects
5 the ticket to be purchased.

23. The ticket sales system as defined in claim 21, further comprising
a ticket gate terminal connected to said sales center, installed at a
predetermined place such as a gate or an admission entrance, a ticket
gate terminal having the IC card reader installed,

5 wherein said ticket gate terminal comprises means for sending
the ticket information, which is to be used by the user and which, in
conjunction with the buyer identification information, is written on the
IC card read from the IC card reader, and the buyer identification
information corresponding to the ticket information to said sales center
10 over the network, when a user holding the IC card, on which the ticket
information is written, makes the IC card reader of said ticket gate
terminal read the information from the IC card,

wherein said sales center further comprises:

means for receiving the ticket information and the buyer

15 identification information from said ticket gate terminal;

means for comparing the received ticket information and the buyer identification information with the ticket information and the buyer identification information stored in the database at the sales center; and

20 means for sending comparison result to said ticket gate terminal, and

wherein said ticket gate terminal further comprises:

means for receiving the comparison result from said sales center; and

25 means for controlling admission of the user holding the IC card such that the user is granted admission if the comparison result is true and is rejected if the comparison result is false.

24. The ticket sales system as defined in claim 22, wherein said ticket gate terminal reads the ticket information and the buyer identification information from the IC card via the IC card reader and sends the ticket information on the ticket to be used by the user, as well as the buyer

5 identification information corresponding to the ticket information, to said sales center over the network,

wherein said sales center compares the ticket information and the buyer identification information sent from said ticket gate terminal with the ticket information and the buyer identification information

10 stored in said sales center, and

wherein said ticket gate terminal further comprises:

means for receiving the comparison result from said sales

center;

means for printing out a ticket if the comparison result is true
15 when a print option is set; and

means for informing the user that the ticket cannot be issued if
the comparison result is false.

25. The ticket sales system as defined in one of claims 20, 22, 23, and
24, wherein said ticket gate terminal displays the ticket information,
which is read from said card reading means, on a display unit of said
ticket gate terminal, and

5 wherein the user using a ticket selects a ticket to be used from
the ticket information displayed on the display unit.

26. A terminal device connected to a ticket sales center unit over a
network, comprising:

means for displaying ticket product information on a display
unit of said terminal device, said ticket product information being sent
5 from said sales center unit over the network;

means for sending purchase order information and credit card
information to said sales center unit over the network, said purchase
order information being entered from an input unit by a user (hereinafter
called a buyer) who orders a ticket and being product information on the
10 ticket to be purchased, said credit card information being entered from
the input unit by the user and being used for transferring a charge;

means for receiving the ticket information and the buyer
identification information from said sales center unit that received the
purchase order information and the credit card information used for

15 transferring the charge;

means for sending the ticket information and the buyer identification information to an IC card writer connected to said user terminal to write the information on an IC card; and

means for displaying information when unavailability
20 information is received from said sales center unit, said information indicating that the ordered ticket could not be purchased.

27. A ticket sales center unit connected to a user terminal and a charge-transfer terminal over a network, comprising:

means for receiving, from said user terminal, purchase order information and credit card information used for transferring a charge;

5 means for generating credit instruction information based on the credit card information to send said charge-transfer terminal;

means for generating buyer identification information based on the purchase order information to send the buyer identification information, as well as information on a purchased ticket, to said user
10 terminal unit if charge transferability information from said charge-transfer terminal indicates that the charge may be transferred, said buyer identification information indicating a buyer, order contents, and an order date/time; and

means for generating unavailability information to send the
15 unavailability information to said user terminal if the charge transferability information sent from said charge-transfer terminal indicates that the charge cannot be transferred.

28. The sales center unit as defined in claim 27, further comprising:

means for receiving the ticket information and the buyer identification information sent from a ticket gate terminal installed at a predetermined place such as a gate or an admission entrance and having an IC card reader installed;

means for comparing the received ticket information and the buyer identification information with ticket information and buyer identification information stored in a database at said sales center unit; and

means for sending comparison result to said ticket gate terminal.

29. The charge-transfer terminal connected to the sales center as defined in claim 27 or 28 comprising:

means for transferring a charge for the ticket purchased; and

means for sending charge transferability information to said sales center, based on the credit instruction information sent from said sales center unit as defined in claim 27 or 28, said charge transferability information indicating whether the charge may be transferred.

30. A ticket gate terminal connected to a sales center unit, installed at a predetermined place such as a ticket gate or an admission entrance, and having an IC card reader installed, comprising:

means for reading, via the IC card reader, ticket information and buyer identification information from an IC card on which the ticket information and the buyer identification information are written and for sending the ticket information and the buyer identification information to said sales center unit,

wherein said sales center unit, upon receipt of the ticket
10 information and the buyer identification information from said ticket
gate terminal, compares the received ticket information and the buyer
identification information with ticket information and buyer
identification information stored in a database at said sales center unit
when said sales center unit generated the ticket information, and sends
15 the comparison result to said ticket gate terminal;

means for receiving the comparison result from said sales
center unit; and

means for controlling an admission of a user such that the user
is admitted if the comparison result is true and is rejected if the
20 comparison result is false.

31. A computer program product causing a computer on a user terminal
to execute processes of steps (a1)-(a5), said user terminal being
connected to a ticket sales center unit over a network:

(a1) displaying ticket product information on a display unit of
5 said user terminal, said ticket product information being sent from said
sales center unit over the network;

(a2) sending purchase order information and credit card
information to said sales center unit over the network, said purchase
order information being entered from an input unit by a user (hereinafter
10 called a buyer) who orders a ticket and being product information on the
ticket to be purchased, said credit card information being entered from
the input unit by the user and being used for transferring a charge;

(a3) receiving the buyer identification information and the

ticket information from said sales center unit that received the purchase
15 order information and the credit card information used for transferring
the charge;

(a4) sending the buyer identification information and the
ticket information to an IC card writer connected to said user terminal,
to write the information on an IC card; and

20 (a5) displaying information when unavailability information is
received from said sales center unit, said information indicating that the
ordered ticket could not be purchased.

32. A computer program product causing a server computer on a sales
center unit to execute processes of steps (b1)-(b4), said sales center unit
being connected to a user terminal and a charge-transfer terminal over a
network:

5 (b1) receiving, from said user terminal, purchase order
information and credit card information used for transferring a charge;

(b2) generating credit instruction information based on the
credit card information to send said credit instruction information to
said charge-transfer terminal;

10 (b3) generating buyer identification information based on the
purchase order information to send said buyer identification information,
as well as information on a purchased ticket, to said user terminal unit if
charge transferability information from said charge-transfer terminal
indicates that the charge may be transferred, said buyer identification
15 information indicating a buyer, order contents, and an order date/time;
and

(b4) generating unavailability information to send the unavailability information to said user terminal if the charge transferability information sent from said charge-transfer terminal

20 indicates that the charge cannot be transferred.

33. The computer program product as defined in claim 32, wherein the program further causes the server computer on said sales center unit to receive the ticket information and the buyer identification information sent from a ticket gate terminal connected to said sales center unit,

5 installed at a predetermined place such as a gate or an admission entrance and having an IC card reader installed, compare the received ticket information and the buyer identification information with the ticket information and the buyer identification information stored in a database at said sales center unit, and send the comparison result to said
10 ticket gate terminal.

34. A computer program product causing a computer on a charge-transfer terminal to transfer a charge and send charge transferability information to said sales center unit, based on the credit card instruction information sent from said sales center unit as defined by claim 32 or 33,
15 said charge transferability information indicating whether the charge may be transferred.

35. A computer program product causing a computer on a ticket gate terminal to execute processes of steps (c1)-(c4), said ticket gate terminal being connected to a sales center unit, installed at a predetermined place such as a ticket gate or an admission entrance, and
5 connected to an IC card reader:

(c1) reading, via the IC card reader, ticket information and buyer identification information from an IC card on which the ticket information and the buyer identification information are written, display the ticket information on a display unit of said ticket gate terminal;

10 (c2) sending the ticket information selected by a user from the ticket information displayed on the display unit, as well as the buyer identification information corresponding to the ticket information, to said sales center unit,

15 wherein said sales center unit, upon receipt of the ticket information and the buyer identification information from said ticket gate terminal, compares the received ticket information and the buyer identification information with ticket information and buyer identification information stored in a database at said sales center unit when the ticket information was generated, and sends the comparison result to said ticket gate
20 terminal;

(c3) receiving a comparison result from said sales center unit;

and

(c4) controlling an admission of a user such that the user is admitted if the comparison result is true and is rejected if the
25 comparison result is false.